

PROGNOSTIC DISCUSSION FOR MONTHLY OUTLOOK  
CLIMATE PREDICTION CENTER NCEP  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WASHINGTON DC  
3 PM EST THURSDAY JANUARY 13 2000

30-DAY OUTLOOK DISCUSSION - FEBRUARY 2000

EQUATORIAL PACIFIC SSTs AS WELL AS THE PACIFIC BASIN WINDS - SEA LEVEL PRESSURE - AND TROPICAL CONVECTION PATTERNS CONTINUE TO BE CONSISTENT WITH A MODERATELY STRONG COLD ENSO EVENT (FOR MORE DETAILS - SEE THE SEASONAL FORECAST PMD). SST ANOMALIES IN THE EQUATORIAL PACIFIC HAVE STRENGTHENED IN THE LAST MONTH AND ARE NOW MAINLY BETWEEN 1 AND 2 CENTIGADE DEGREES BELOW NORMAL FROM THE COAST OF SOUTH AMERICA WESTWARD TO 170E. LA NINA CONDITIONS ARE FORECAST TO CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST APRIL 2000 - AND THEN DISSIPATE BY MAY OR JUNE.

THE TEMPERATURE FORECAST FOR FEBRUARY IS BASED MAINLY ON THE COUPLED MODEL AND ON LA NINA COMPOSITES. THE TOOLS ARE IN GOOD AGREEMENT ON COLD AND DRY IN MUCH OF ALASKA. THE COUPLED MODEL INDICATES THAT THE JET STREAM WILL LIKELY REMAIN NORTH OF ITS NORMAL POSITION IN THE WESTERN U.S. - LEADING TO ENHANCED WARMTH - ESPECIALLY IN THE GREAT BASIN. A MEAN TROUGH IS LIKELY IN THE NORTHEAST - WHERE SUBNORMAL TEMPERATURES APPEAR LIKELY. THE RECENT CHANGE TO A BLOCKED UPPER AIR FLOW IN THE ATLANTIC MAKES THIS MORE LIKELY - SHOULD IT PERSIST. ENHANCED PRECIPITATION IS PREDICTED IN THE NORTHWEST U.S. - WHERE COMPOSITES HAVE A STRONG SIGNAL FOR WET BUT THE COUPLED MODEL APPEARS TOO DRY. THE COUPLED MODEL STORM TRACK IS WEAKEST OVER THE CURRENTLY DRY CENTER OF THE NATION - POSSIBLY INDICATING CONTINUATION OF RELATIVE DRYNESS THERE. MODEL STORMINESS IS ENHANCED IN THE OHIO VALLEY AND TENNESSEE THE NORTHERN MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION AND NEW ENGLAND - IN AGREEMENT WITH THE LA NINA COMPOSITE. THE SOUTH REMAINS LARGELY DRY - ESPECIALLY FLORIDA WHERE BOTH TOOLS HAVE A STRONG SIGNAL.

NOTE - THIS CLIMATE OUTLOOK IS INTENDED FOR USE ONLY PRIOR TO THE START OF THE VALID PERIOD. WITHIN THE VALID PERIOD OBSERVATIONS AND MEDIUM RANGE FORECASTS SHOULD BE CONSULTED.

NOTE - THE NEXT 0.5 MONTH LEAD-TIME MONTHLY OUTLOOK WILL BE ISSUED THURSDAY FEBRUARY 17 2000.

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